

REMARKS

Examiner Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of the telephone interview on February 13, 2004 in which the disclosure of Toguchi was discussed. No agreement on patentability of the claims was reached.

Rejections

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-20

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Toguchi et. al. (U.S. Patent 6,408,355) in view of Hatae et. al. (Pub. No. US 20030172201). Applicant respectfully submits that the combination is improperly motivated and furthermore does not teach each and every element of the invention as claimed in claims 1-20.

Toguchi discloses methods of setting and releasing the isochronous transaction in an IEEE 1394 bus network controlled by an owner node. The owner node is defined as “a node that possess a resource of isochronous transaction” (Toguchi, col. 3, lines 61-63) and executes operations for setting and releasing the isochronous transactions. In particular, the owner node sends a release request to a bridge portal in order to complete the release of the isochronous transaction on the entire bus network (Togushi, col. 2, lines 33-36). Toguchi also teaches a talker node that is “a packet-sending node of isochronous transaction” (Toguchi, col. 3, lines 65-66). Furthermore, Toguchi’s figures show the owner and talker nodes as different node types in Fig. 2A-2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B. A unique node ID identifies Toguchi’s owner and talker nodes.

Hatae discloses a communication system and protocol that logically connects talker and listener nodes. Hatae manages the data communications by identifying the nodes using extended unique identifier (“EUI”) and identifying the connections between nodes with a connection ID.

The Examiner asserts the motivation for combining Hatae with Toguchi is that the resulting combination will communicate data continuously and more reliably. However, the Examiner has provided no sound logical reasoning that Toguchi’s system would be

improved by using EUIs instead of node IDs. Instead the Examiner has relied solely on the single sentence in Hatae to provide the motivation. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination is improper for lack of appropriate motivation.

Furthermore, even assuming the combination is proper, it does not teach Applicant's invention as claimed in claims 1-20. The Examiner equates Toguchi's owner node sending a receive request to Applicant's claimed element of receiving a change indication signal from a talker node, because the owner node in Toguchi and Applicant claimed talker node are both "sender" nodes. However, Toguchi's owner node sends control messages, not data, whereas Applicant's talker node sends the data and can send a change request. In addition, Applicant claims a controller node, which is defined in the specification as having functionality similar to that of Toguchi's owner node. Thus, the Examiner cannot properly equate Applicant's talker node with Toguchi's owner node, as these nodes have different functions.

As neither Toguchi nor Hatae teach receiving a change indication signal from a talker node as claimed in claims 1-20, the combination cannot be interpreted to disclose the claimed elements. Therefore, the combination of Toguchi and Hatae cannot render obvious Applicant's invention as claimed in claims 1-20. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of currently pending claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Toguchi and Hatae.

Claims 1-6, 15, 18

Claims 1-6, 15, 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Toguchi in view of Hatae. Applicant respectfully submits that the combination does not teach each and every element of the invention as claimed in claims 1-6, 15, 18.

The Examiner states Toguchi teaches performing an address resolution protocol to find an updated nodeID address (col. 4 lines 7-17; col. 6, lines 23-26). The first section of Toguchi cited by the Examiner discloses definitions of bus ID, local bus ID, talker bus ID and listener bus ID. The second cited section describes the layout of the control and status register (CSR), in particular, mentioning the address space used to store the nodeID and the address space used for other purposes. Neither of the cited sections teach performing

an address resolution protocol. Similarly, Hatae does not teach performing an address resolution protocol to find an updated nodeID address.

As neither Toguchi nor Hatae teach performing an address resolution protocol to find an updated nodeID address as claimed in claimed 1, 15 and 18, the combination cannot be interpreted to disclose the claimed elements.

Therefore, the combination of Toguchi and Hatae cannot render obvious Applicant's invention as claimed in independent claims 1, 15 and 18 and the claims that depend from them. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of currently pending claims 1, 15 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Toguchi and Hatae.

SUMMARY

Claims 1-20 are currently pending. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Sue Holloway at (408) 720-3476.

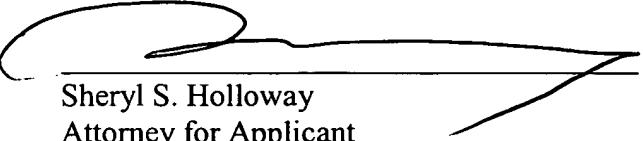
Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

Respectfully submitted,

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